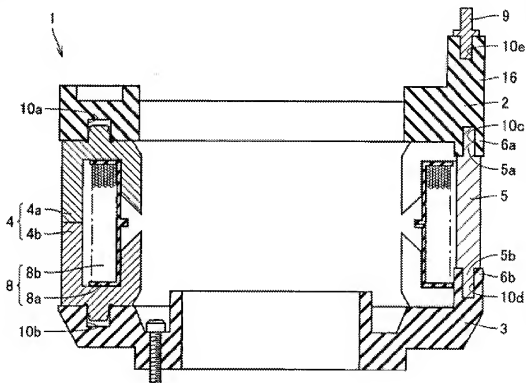


REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application. Claims 1, 2, 7 and 8 have been amended herein. Favorable reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

I. CLAIM AMENDMENTS

FIG.2



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Claims 1, 7 and 8 have been amended to recite how the spacer is positioned between receiving portions respectively included in the first and second clamping members. Referring to the embodiment of Fig. 2 (reproduced above), for example, the first and second clamping members (2,3) each include a respective receiving portion (6a,6b). The spacer (5) is positioned between the receiving portions (6a,6b) of the first

and second clamping members (2,3). Claim 2 has been amended for consistency in view of the amendment to claim 1. Support for such amendments is found in Fig. 2 together and in the text at page 8, lines 20-26 of the specification.

Additionally, a clarifying amendment has been made to claims 1, 7 and 8 by noting the that clamping means (2,3) hold the outer yoke (4) rather than necessarily clamp the outer yoke (4) *per se*. Support for such amendment is found, for example, in the specification at page 10, lines 1-3 and 13-16.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-8 UNDER 35 USC §102(e)/103(a)

Claims 1, 2, 6 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §102(e) based on *Chang*. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Chang* in view of *Lee*. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected under 35 USC §103(a) based on *Chang* in view *Smith et al.* Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections for at least the following reasons.

Claims 1, 7 and 8 each refer to a spacer for coupling the first and second clamping members at a spacing. The spacer is positioned between a receiving portion of the first clamping member and a receiving portion of the second clamping member.

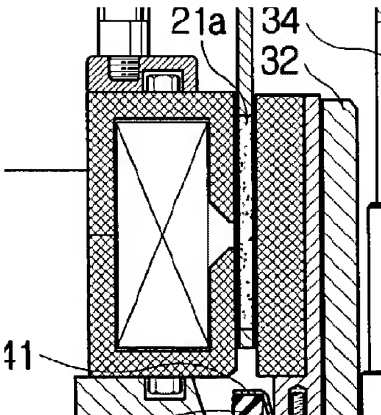
The Examiner refers to what are apparently bolt heads 100 in annotated Fig. 2 of *Chang*. The Examiner asserts that the bolt heads 100 constitute a spacer as claimed. Perhaps the Examiner interprets the bolt heads 100 to represent a bolt extending through the outer stator 22. Furthermore, in connection with the rejection of claim 2 the Examiner refers to recesses 200,300 as constituting receiving portions as claimed.

Applicant respectfully submits, however, that the bolt heads 100 (or bolt extending therethrough) do not constitute a spacer as claimed. The spacer referred to in claims 1, 7 and 8 is positioned in the receiving portions of the first and second clamping so as to couple the first and second clamping members at a spacing.

However, as is noted in Fig. 2 of *Chang* (shown herein in relevant part), there is a gap between the bolt heads 100 and the first and second clamping members 31a, 31b (to which the Examiner refers). Thus, even to the extent the Examiner feels the recesses 200, 300 constitute the receiving portions of claims 1, 7 and 8, the bolt heads 100 are not positioned between the receiving portions and, as claimed, coupling the clamping members at a spacing.

In other words, it is clear from Fig. 2 of *Chang* that the bolt heads 100 are not setting any spacing. Rather, the spacing between the clamping members 31a and 31b is defined by the outer stator 22, which is precisely what the present invention seeks to avoid.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully submits that *Chang* does not teach or suggest the invention as recited in claims 1, 7 and 8. Moreover, the secondary references to *Lee* and *Smith et al.* do not make up for the above-discussed deficiencies in *Chang*. Withdrawal of each of the rejections is respectfully requested.



III. PTO-1449 FORM

Applicants wish to point out that the PTO-1449 Form completed by the Examiner on June 25, 2007 does not identify the International Search report for the corresponding parent application PCT/JP2004/007960 as having been considered. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide confirmation that the Search Report has been considered.

III. CONCLUSION

For at least the above reasons, all claims 1-8 are believed to be allowable and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. A prompt action to such end is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner feel that a telephone interview would be helpful to facilitate favorable prosecution of the above-identified application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number provided below.

Should a petition for an extension of time be necessary for the timely reply to the outstanding Office Action (or if such a petition has been made and an additional extension is necessary), petition is hereby made and the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fees (including additional claim fees) to Deposit Account No. 18-0988.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Mark D. Saralino/

Mark D. Saralino

Reg. No. 34,243

DATE: October 6, 2007

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